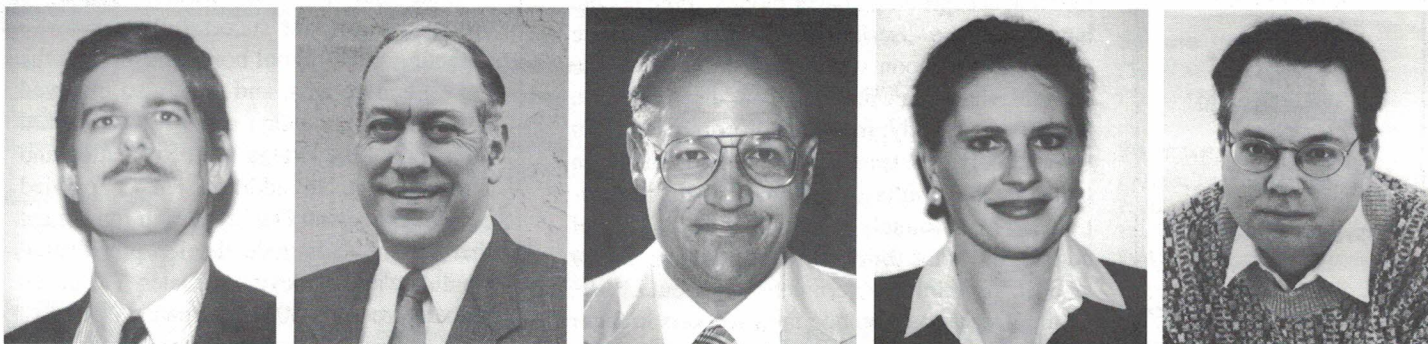


LPC Monthly



The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California

March 1997



The newly elected LPC Officers(left to right): Mark Hinkle (Chair), Jon Petersen (Northern Vice Chair), Bob Weber (Southern Vice Chair), Elizabeth Brierly (Secretary) and Eric Fine (Treasurer). See "New LPC Officers & Reps Elected" on page 3.

LPC Convention Report

California Libertarians meet in Sacramento to elect new officers, conduct other business, attend special events.

From February 13th to 17th, almost two hundred Libertarians from all over California gathered in Sacramento to attend the LPC's annual convention. Meeting at the Beverly Garland Hotel over Presidents' weekend, convention-goers enjoyed a top notch line-up of guest speakers, panels and special events. Those attending as delegates also conducted a full slate of party business, including electing new officers and representatives to the LPC's Executive Committee. (See "New Officers and Representatives Elected," page 3.)

Grassroots Seminar

The convention kicked-off Thursday, February 13th, with a very special event: the first session of a two day Grassroots Seminar — an informal meeting, free to all LPC members, that provided Libertarian activists with a forum to share their secrets of success. The seminar, conducted by Northern Vice Chair Cullene Lang, was attended by over twenty people during its first day.

Thursday's focus was on "internal" activism — forming, building and sus-

taining local regions. Lang discussed her success transforming Long Beach into one of the largest, most active regions in the state. She also advised activists attempting to organize inactive regions to begin by obtaining a list of registered Libertarians who voted in the previous election, as opposed to working from a list of all registered Libertarians. In addition, she stressed the importance of helping activists find their "niche." Perry Martin, editor of *LPC Monthly*, distributed a pamphlet he wrote, "How to Produce a Successful Newsletter," and invited other editors seeking guidance to contact him. The group also discussed regional bylaws, budgeting and work parties, and debated the pros and cons of opening and maintaining an office.

Friday, the seminar shifted its focus to "external" activism — organizing protests and fundraisers, sponsoring outreach booths and attracting media attention. Over forty activists attended the session, packing the room. Participants included Vince Carlton, who provided helpful information on how to become a Libertarian radio show host. Sacramento's

Michael McHale was also there, and discussed his experiences producing his long running cable TV show, "The Libertarian Gang." In addition, Ed Teyssier of San Diego talked about his involvement organizing a successful petition drive for his city's stadium referendum.

Lang closed the seminar by requesting feedback from everyone in attendance, and announced her desire to make the seminars a regular feature of future conventions.

Keynote Address

Saturday morning, the convention's keynote address was delivered by prolific Libertarian writer George Smith, who outlined the perennial conflict between political pragmatists and ideologues. Siding with the latter, Smith explained

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- ▶ *New Officers and Reps*
- ▶ *Unified Membership Plan*
- ▶ *Harry Browne Speaks*

March 1997

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LETTERS

Free to Choose

Richard Crawford (Letters, January 1997) says, "As a Libertarian, I believe discrimination is wrong..." Did he mean to say he believes government discrimination is wrong?

As a Libertarian, I believe discrimination is a fundamental right of any individual or organization that accepts no taxpayer money. Free people have a right to discriminate — that is, to make choices based upon whatever criteria he or she chooses, rational or not. Rational discrimination benefits everybody; irrational discrimination can be hurtful, but the sphere of influence is small. In contrast, the results of government discrimination can be absolutely devastating, depending, of course, on what they are discriminating for or against. Even the government, we would hope, would discriminate among their workers in favor of intelligence, experience and personality.

Like I said...we would hope!

KAREN MCNEIL
Oakland, CA

Another Elected Libertarian

You guys left me out of your article in the January 1997 edition of *LPC Monthly*. I was a registered Libertarian when I ran and assumed nonpartisan office as a member of the Hartnell Community College Governing Board in 1993 — and I'm still a registered Libertarian.

MARK DIEROLF
Salinas, CA

Are Libertarians Radicals?

"You want to do *what*? You Libertarians are radicals!" We've all heard this quote or a variation of it. The word "radical" has a negative connotation. I used to be defensive about being called a radical, but not anymore.

Our country was discovered and pioneered by radicals. The Constitution and Bill of Rights were written by radicals. At the time, nothing was more radical than the idea of allowing citizens to have a voice in the political process.

Today there is evidence that our radical ideas are becoming popular. People are discussing abolishing the IRS. California and Arizona have legalized medical uses of marijuana. Perhaps people will soon be talking about ending the Departments of Education and Commerce.

Great ideas and great people have always been labeled radical. Libertarians should embrace the term and live up to its proud history.

MYLES BAKER
Westminster, CA

Gene Trosper Relocates

Riverside County (R33) activist Gene Trosper has announced that he will be moving to Salt Lake City, Utah effective March 1.

Gene and his wife Shannon are best known for successfully defeating three school bond measures in the Lake Elsinore area, and were also involved in a recall campaign against four board members of the Ortega Trail Recreation and Park District. In addition, Gene founded Stop The Browne Out, a petition movement that sought to include the LP presidential candidate in the televised debates. The group gathered roughly 30,000 signatures.

"I really enjoyed my party activity in California these past 6 years," said Gene. "I've learned a lot and made many good friends. California LP'ers are fantastic!"

Gene plans to become involved in the Utah LP after settling down. We are grateful for all that he has done for the LPC and wish him and his wife the best of luck.



The following letter was recently published in San Diego's Daily Transcript:

Overlooked Issues

Informed citizens know the medicinal benefits of marijuana, they weren't misinformed. Bill Clinton used to "feel our pain," now he threatens to arrest any doctor who prescribes it. Gee, if those citizens had voted Libertarian, we could be discussing more important subjects. Drugs would be re-legalized, like they were until the early 1900s. It's the politicians, stupid. Besides, you don't need a doctor's permission to relieve your pain. Libertarians don't tell you what you can do to your body, just as long as you don't tread on anyone else.

Think about that for the next 3 1/2 years.

CHRIS WINKLER
San Diego

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New Officers and Representatives Elected

Delegates at the LPC's 1997 Convention select new Executive Committee.

On the morning of February 17th, the last day of the LPC's 1997 Convention, delegates met to conduct the most important business of their three day session: the biannual election of party officers and representatives to the Executive Committee.

The process took the better part of the morning and, when it was all over, the LPC had an entirely new roster of officers: Mark Hinkle (Chair), Jon Petersen (Northern Vice Chair), Bob Weber (Southern Vice Chair), Elizabeth Brierly (Secretary) and Eric Fine (Treasurer).

In an unexpected development, outgoing Chair Gail Lightfoot declined to seek reelection and instead nominated Hinkle, an At-Large Rep on last year's Excom and a resident of Morgan Hill.



Newly elected LPC Chair Mark Hinkle accepts gavel from Immediate Past Chair Gail Lightfoot. (photo: Sam Severs)

Accepting his nomination, Hinkle outlined his plans to "professionalize" the party, including opening an office and hiring a full-time activist to manage it. He

also declared his intention to work aggressively at building membership and increasing contributions. After speaking in favor of the Unified Membership Plan (see article below), Hinkle urged members to "come together," adding, "Let's make the party grow."

Support for Hinkle's nomination was overwhelming. He was elected without opposition.

Jon Petersen, a resident of San Jose and the LPC's 1996 Treasurer, pledged to support Hinkle in his efforts to grow the party, and urged the adoption of the UMP. Bob Weber, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Los Angeles

County and a resident of Culver City, described the party's obstacles as "organizational, not ideological," and
(continued on page 5)

Unified Membership Plan

What is it — and what does it mean for you?



As reported elsewhere in this issue, the Libertarian Party of California is in the process of joining a program of "unified membership" with the national LP. This program has already been adopted by 17 other state parties.

Very simply, this program expands the same principle we've been applying to state and local membership for years — one dues payment makes you a member at both levels — to the national level as well. Revenue from dues payments will be shared among the national, state and local organizations.

What does this mean for you?

- If you're involved in recruiting new Libertarians, this program means you'll have a more affordable, easier-to-explain benefits package to offer them: one dues payment of \$25 qualifies them as a member at the national,

state and local levels.

- If you are currently a California dues-paying member (central committee member) but not a dues-paying member of the national LP, this means that soon you will be receiving *LP News*, the national newspaper providing coverage of Libertarian activities all across the country — at no extra charge.
- If you are working on a campaign or other activity that needs volunteers or contributors, you'll have a much bigger pool of members to work from. Roughly 2,000 people who formerly paid dues only to the national LP will now be on our membership rolls and receiving news of local activities through *LPC Monthly* and local newsletters.

- If you are already a dues-paying member at both the national and state levels, this means that at renewal time you will only have to pay \$25 to retain all your membership benefits. But as we all know — TANSTAAFL (There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch) — and the LPC needs your continuing financial support. This would be a good time to consider joining the LPC pledge program or, if you're already a pledger, increasing your monthly donation. (You can use the membership form on the back of this newsletter.) 100% of your contributions to the LPC pledge program above the basic dues amount will stay in California to support LPC activities.

More details on the Unified Membership Plan will appear in the next
(continued on page 10)

From The Chair:

The Goal is Growth

by Mark Hinkle

From the Chair." It's been almost a decade since I've written those words. This is my second time at bat as an LPC Chair and my 23rd year as a member of the Libertarian Party. I voted for John Hospers in 1972 and every LP presidential candidate since. I'm a life member of both the California and national Libertarian Parties. I've been a candidate six times and served on the Libertarian National Committee for six years. I've served on the LPC's Executive Committee for most of the last 20 years. And I'm a

monthly pledger to the LNC, the LPC and my local region, Santa Clara.

So much for my past. What's in store for our future?

The answer is *growth*.

Like any organism, The Libertarian Party must grow or die — and for too many years, we've been dying slowly. Our membership numbers are flat and so is our budget. Only our voter registration numbers have been fairly good: a little more than a year ago we had 69,403 registered Libertarians; today that total is 77,665. But the LPC can't take credit for that growth: it occurred not because of anything we did, but as a byproduct of several initiatives that obtained voter registrations as part of their efforts to get on the ballot. Also, it was an election year, which may well have been a contributing factor.

There are many reasons why the LPC has been dying, but two of the most important are our lack of focused goals and lack of professionalism.

For years, the fifteen individuals on the

LPC Excom came to its meetings with individual agendas — and fifteen agendas equals no focus. Without focused, limited goals, failure often prevailed. Many talented activists left out of frustration and despair.

Our lack of professionalism is due, in part, because this is a volunteer organiza-

tion. Every-one must prioritize their time: appropriately, our families and jobs come first; we divide what's left among other activities, including our volunteer work as LP activists.

However, for an employee of the LPC, activism would be their job, their livelihood — and a top priority. An LPC employee would spend their working hours advancing the cause of liberty as a professional.

All this leads to the goals I've set for the LPC to achieve by the end of 1997:

1. Grow the number of our dues paying members from 2,200 to 5,000.
2. Grow our annual budget from \$70,000 to \$150,000.
3. Hire at least one paid employee, working in an office.

The first goal should be relatively easy. Last month, convention delegates approved by-laws changes allowing the LPC to unify its membership with the national LP. Our Excom voted to create a unified state and national party membership, with joint dues remaining at \$25. That should give us 4,400 members by

the time you read this. In addition, the LNC is planning to spend \$500,000 on membership recruitment this year — and a significant part of that growth will come from California.

The second goal will be harder to reach, but I've already taken the first steps toward it by hiring a professional fundraiser, Michael Cloud. Soon, Michael will be sending out monthly appeals for donations — and I urge you to respond to them. We must all do our share. To demonstrate our commitment, every member of the new Excom is already or soon will be a monthly pledger; no one gets to stir the stew unless they've put something into the pot.

Accomplishing the third goal depends upon achieving the first two. The LPC will not hire someone without proper funding; we've done that before and we're not going to make the same mistake again. At last year's convention, I authored a standing resolution, which delegates overwhelmingly approved, requiring the LPC to have at least 5,000 members and an annual budget of \$250,000 before it can hire an Executive Director. Nevertheless, I want to have a well-paid Executive Director with an office in Sacramento by the end of my two year term.

Grow or die.

That's our choice. If you decide to vote for growth, then there are two crucial ways that you can do so: first, sign up as a monthly pledger of \$10 or more; and second, send us the most generous donation you can afford. (Remember: your family comes first.)

The LPC Excom is united behind me, and committed to achieving the goals I've outlined. With your help — and only with your help — we *can*. ■

Pledge Your Support to the LPC Today!

To become a monthly pledger to the Libertarian Party of California, use the membership form on the back of this issue, or call: (510) 352-9469. Do your share to help the LPC grow!

New Officers and Reps

(continued from page 3)

expressed his eagerness to help overcome them. Elizabeth Brierly of San Jose said she was "honored" to be a part of the new Excom and looked forward to helping the party grow. Eric Fine of Los Angeles promised to work with Hinkle and handle the party's finances in a thoroughly professional manner.

Returning to the Excom as At-Large Representatives are Ted Brown of Pasadena, Al Swain of Shasta and talk radio host Terry Savage of Tahoe. Joining them are Mary Gingell of Palo Alto and Immediate Past Chair Gail Lightfoot of San Luis Obispo. Lightfoot was nominated by Hinkle, who describing her as "indispensable" to the LPC. She pledged to support the new Chair "in every way possible," including carrying on the many projects she initiated over her past two years as the party's leader.

Selected as Alternate At-Large Representatives were Immediate Past Secretary José Casteñeda of Southgate and Joe Farina of Sacramento.

The remaining seats on the new Executive Committee, reserved for representatives from the party's five largest regions, will be filled by Philip Zuebisch of San Diego, Joe Dehn of Palo Alto, Alan Freberg of San Francisco and Jeffery Sommer of East Bay. As of our press time, the remaining region — Orange County — has not yet named its new representative.

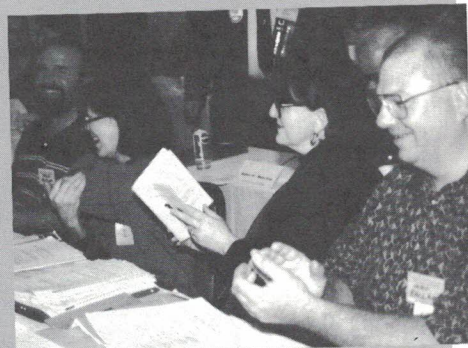
Delegates also selected new members of the LPC's Judicial Committee: David Bergland, Jack Dean, Bruce Lagasse, David Nolan and Wayne Nygren. The committee is responsible for resolving inter-party disputes.

After the elections, the new Excom held a short meeting during which they voted to implement the UMP and contract with professional fundraiser Michael Cloud to initiate an aggressive campaign soliciting donations. Before adjourning, the group scheduled its next meeting for March 22. ■



Snapshots

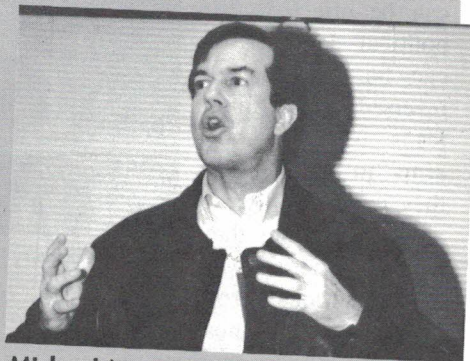
"Caught" at the Convention...



Approximately 75 delegates from all over the state met in Sacramento to conduct LPC business.



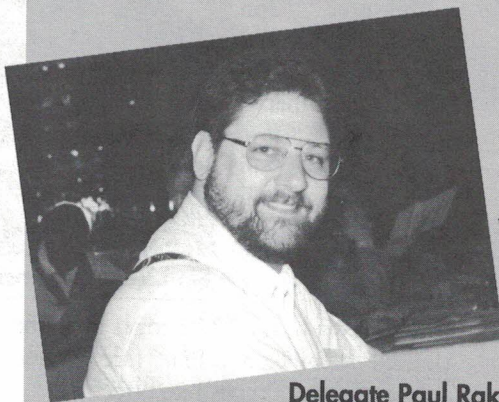
Jacob Hornberger speaks at the Samuel Adams Society Luncheon.



Michael (Emerling) Cloud speaking at the Strategy Panel.



Norma Jean Almodovar and Pam Pescosolido, Chair of Central Valley.



Delegate Paul Rako from Sunnyvale. (photo: Sam Severs)



Another group of delegates at the convention's business session.

Convention Report

(continued from page 1)

that political strategy primarily based upon pragmatic considerations “makes a movement highly vulnerable and short lived.”

“Freedom will never prosper without the strength of principles,” Smith continued. “We must display moral courage in applying those principles consistently, without compromise, however unpopular this may make us in the short run. History tells us that radical changes can be effected, that political degeneration can be arrested and reversed. Those Americans who took up arms in 1775 knew they might not live to see the freedom they desired. America, with no professional army or navy, faced the most

powerful military machine on earth. A modern political scientist would’ve told them their rebellion was futile. But the resilience of freedom and its power to motivate cannot be quantified, measured or predicted. In the end, those Americans enjoyed spectacular success. Likewise, we should disregard the current political degeneration and not allow it to deflect us from our course. Inflexible zeal on behalf of the freedom and dignity of the individual is the only way we can achieve our goal.”

Excom Reports

The first major item on the convention’s business agenda was for 1996 Executive Committee members to report on their activities and accomplishments during the previous year.

Al Swain, chair of the Publications Oversight Committee, described his revised and formalized bid procedure for

selecting the party’s newsletter editor, adding that the new publication, *LPC Monthly*, has enjoyed a “favorable response” from members. He also suggested implementing a teleconferencing system for the Excom, and instituting a program to fax responses to inquiries.

Ted Brown reported that the LPC fielded 73 candidates in the 1996 election. He also said that the party needs to do more to help its candidates after they have been selected, and advised commissioning a

campaign manager to provide candidates with improved training and guidance.

Regional Rep Joe Dehn discussed his activities as a representative to the National Committee. He also provided an update on his efforts to expand the LPC website, and expressed his desire to add more local information to the site. Dehn urged each region to create and maintain their own

webpages and offered his assistance.

Terry Savage described his efforts to develop a strategic plan for the LPC, and urged the new Excom to devote a minimum of ninety minutes per meeting to develop “strategy and policy.”

Treasurer Jon Petersen delivered his report; he also pointed out that a significant portion of the LPC’s expenses — those associated with maintaining the party’s database — will not be a major factor in the ‘97 budget after the Unified Membership Plan (see related article on page 3) goes into effect.

Due to time constraints, LPC Chair

Gail Lightfoot delivered her report in writing. It detailed her efforts to improve the party’s response to inquiries and its internal and external communications; she also provided the results of various fundraising projects and reported that LPC membership had grown during the year.

Additional reports were presented by José Casteñeda (Secretary) and Hugh McLean (Withease).

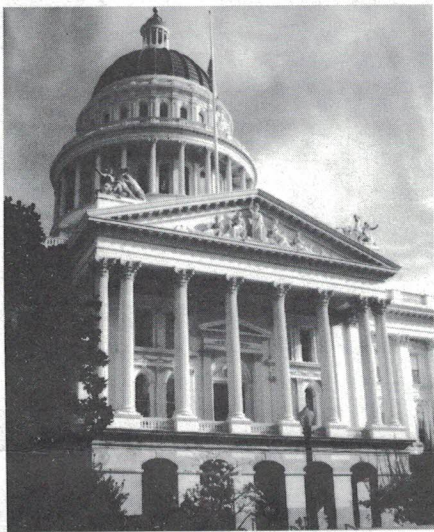
Other Business

This year delegates instituted several changes to our bylaws, including the addition of a clause making explicit the Excom’s power to decide if the LPC will participate in the UMP. Other changes included the adoption of a directive to hold presidential straw polls at state conventions in election years and a decision that LPC delegates to national conventions must be elected by a minimum of three votes. The bylaws were also amended to clarify that Excom mail ballots may be conducted via e-mail or fax.

Delegates also passed several minor changes to the party’s platform and two resolutions: the first instructed the LPC

Excom to negotiate a separation agreement with the national party should the UMP prove “unworkable or inequitable;” the second called for a complete “separation of sports and

state” — a response to professional sports franchises and leagues that persuade city governments to finance stadium construction or renovations at tax-



Special events included a guided tour through the Capitol Building.



LPC delegates conduct



Simi Valley Council Member Sandi Webb.

payers' expense.

Dasbach Urges Focus

After a luncheon on Sunday, Steve Dasbach, Chair of the Libertarian Party's National Committee, addressed the large gathering. "I think we'll look back at the last election as a historic period for our party," he said. "We

had more membership growth in 1996 than the previous eleven years combined. It was the first year we raised more than \$2 million. This year it looks like we'll cross the \$2 million mark again. We're also enjoying record levels of media attention."

He went on to say that he thinks "we'll come to view this year as the beginning

Dasbach concluded by saying: "The road to victory is before us. We can see the shining city we're trying to reach. What we have to do now is take those steps toward it, all of us, one step at a time. We have the ability to make that journey — to build a freer, more prosperous country for ourselves and our children — and, if we remain focused on the task at hand, we can."

Guest Speakers

Convention attendees had the opportunity to hear a series of excellent lectures by numerous guest speakers — so many, in fact, that many people found themselves facing hard choices.

Jeffrey R. Hummel, author of *Emancipating Slaves, Enslaving Free Men*, delivered an illuminating talk on the economic impact of the American Civil War. According to Hummel, the Civil War ended America's tradition of limited government. "While federal spending exploded during the New Deal," said Hummel, "the charge was set during the war between the states." Consider some of the evidence: before the Civil War, the government's only taxes were tariffs; during the war, President Lincoln levied real estate, excise, sales and license taxes, in addition to the nation's first income tax. He also instituted many "temporary" spending programs and agencies that never died. Of course, new bureaucracies meant hiring more government workers — and, by 1871, there were 40% more federal employees than before the war. Lincoln also set the precedent for the fed interfering in the monetary supply,

and suspended many civil rights.

Men's Rights activist Fred Hayward

discussed the many ways our society discriminates against men, including on the issues of abortion and child support. "Many people oppose forcing the responsibilities of motherhood upon unwilling women," said Hayward, "yet these same people

advocate forcing the responsibilities of fatherhood upon unwilling men. Men are forced to pay for choices that women get to make. That's slavery." Hayward presented alimony in similar terms: "Marriage is a partnership. If the husband and wife are equal partners financially, then they are hurt equally in a divorce, so there's no reason a husband should have to pay alimony; and if the husband and wife are unequal financial partners, and the husband has improved the lifestyle of the wife, then she should be grateful for what he has done for her

— and not expect him to sustain her after her marital responsibilities are over." Hayward argued that for every women's issue, there is a corresponding men's issue: "Ending paternity suits is the

male equivalent to maintaining women's rights to have abortions."

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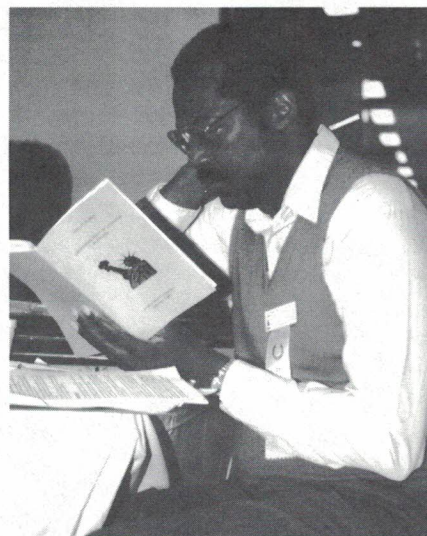


National LP Chair Steve Dasbach (right) discusses his plans for membership growth.



Sacramento's Michael McHale discusses his cable TV show at Grassroots Seminar.

of a new phase in our history. We can now stop fantasizing about what it would be like to be a political force and start planning to make it happen. For years, as hard as we worked, we didn't really believe we could succeed. Now we see that we can. That's the good news; the bad news is that it's a lot of work. And there's no magic bullet for victory: we have to build our base of support. We know it's possible to double our membership in eighteen months because we've done it. The challenge now is to continue doing it. It's not that far to one million members if we stay focused on that goal."



Rodney Austin studies LPC Bylaws.

Harry Browne Addresses California Libertarians

On February 16th, 1996 Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne spoke to a large crowd of supporters at the LPC's annual convention. The following is an abbreviated transcript of his speech:



we'll have 90,000 members — and on and on. We can waltz into the year 2000 with 180,000 members. And each year the task will be easier because our growth will be a magnet draw-

ing others on board. People will be saying, "By God, those Libertarians really do have a chance!"

HARRY BROWNE: First, I want to say thank you for treating me so well for the last two and a half years. Being your presidential candidate was the most rewarding experience of my life.

In many ways, we ran our most successful campaign ever: a record number of radio and TV show hosts and journalists endorsed a Libertarian for president; two hundred eighty seven of them said I should be included in the debates. Countless people called the talk shows, saying: "You've got my vote — I'm voting Libertarian for the first time!"

But in the end, we received about 500,000 votes. A lot of people who said they'd vote for me ended up voting Republican or Democrat instead. Why?

Because we're *irrelevant*. We may be saying the things voters want to hear but it doesn't matter because we can't win.

How do we become relevant? Simple: get the voter registrations, the party members, the money and the media attention that we need to win. We must build the party until it's so big and strong that nobody can ignore us.

In short: we need to have 200,000 members going into the next campaign.

Can we do it? Well, we could double our membership this year if every Libertarian recruited just one new member in the next twelve months. Is that so difficult? Look at the dozens of people you've been informally working on for years. Now is the time to hone in on them and say: "Why don't you join the Libertarian Party?" If they hesitate, offer to pay their dues the first year if they'll consider paying them after that. That's *all* we have to do to have 45,000 members. If we do it again next year,

Now, we raised about \$250 per member during the '96 campaign. Can you imagine if we had 200,000 members? We'd be going into next election with a base of support that could produce \$50 million! Just *imagine* what we could do with that kind of money. We'd have a party known all over the country. We'd be able to take our message door-to-door, over-and-over again. And everyone would know what we're offering. *That's* what we can do with \$50 million — and it all comes from more members.

Make no mistake: those new members are out there waiting for us! Polls show that 25% of Americans agree with our philosophy and 75% think the government is way too big. We're the *only* party that's serious about reducing the size of government. The Republicans aren't — they say: "We think the government is way too big and that's why we want to grow it by only 14%!"

I'm often asked if I'll run for president again. The answer is yes — *if* we build the party to the point where we can compete. But remember this: if we build that kind of party then I'm going to have a lot of competition for the nomination! And if we find somebody better than me, he'll have my full support — because, more than anything, I want us all to live in a truly free country.

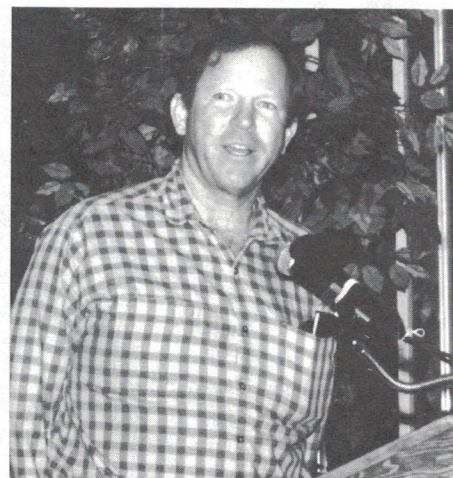
Our time is coming. There's no question about it. But we have to stay focused on building the party. I urge all of you to do your part. The rewards will be fabulous — freedom, harmony, prosperity — and those things are just as important to your family, friends and neighbors as they are to you. ■

Convention Report

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Sandi Webb discussed what Libertarians can expect to accomplish once elected to local office. Now serving her second term on Simi Valley's City Council, Webb said she deals with issues such as land use, permits, local ordinances (like smoking bans and curfews), rent control, redevelopment, taxes and cutting wasteful spending. She considers her biggest victory to be her streamlining of the city's process for issuing permits for carrying concealed weapons. Clearly relishing her role as Simi Valley's resident freedom fighter, Webb said her presence is often enough to discourage power-hungry bureaucrats from proposing new laws. "More than one time, I've heard other council members say 'Forget it! Sandi will never go for that!'"

Other guest speakers included: Norma Jean Almodovar, author of *From Cop to Call Girl*, who discussed her activities as a prostitutes' rights activist; George O'Brien, Western Regional Representative of ISIL, who explained "Why Libertarians Are Not Conservatives;" and Dr. Michael Edelstein, author of *3-Minute Therapy*, who provided advice on "How to be Happy in a Statist World." There were also speakers on Smog Check II, the State Engineers Union's Initiative, the Medical Marijuana Initiative and other topics.



Calaveras County Supervisor Tom Tryon accepts Sons of Liberty Award from the Samuel Adams Society.

Strategy Panel

Should the LP focus on local or national election campaigns? That question is often hotly debated by members, and a panel of well-known Libertarian activists at the convention explored some possible answers. Chaired by Michael Cloud, Projects Manager of the Browne for President Campaign, the panel consisted of Aaron Starr, Chair of the Committee to Elect Libertarians to Local Office, Jack Dean, Senior Advisor to the Browne for President Campaign, and radio talk show host Terry Savage.

A champion of local elections, Starr said: "At this stage the party needs to go where the big guys aren't. We have an advantage in local races: we can collect money from Libertarians all over the country for winnable local races, elections the Democrats and Republicans don't care about." Starr went on to say that electing Libertarians to local office "helps us accumulate political capital which, eventually, will enable us to tackle bigger things."

On the other hand, Savage emphasized the value of running good presidential campaigns, saying "that's where we get maximum media exposure." He also advocated focusing resources on a handful of "well-chosen" state senate and congressional races, then spending remaining funds on increasing voter registration.

Drawing an analogy between political growth and a physical exercise, Dean said: "We have to work out our entire body." He urged fielding candidates at all levels, saying that "hard, focused work" was the key to long term victory. He also quoted entertainer Eddie Cantor, who once famously quipped that it took him twenty years to become "an overnight success."

Cloud stressed the importance of building the party by increasing membership. "Studies show that people either vote their party line or they don't vote at all," he said, comparing the "party loyalty" of voters to the "product loyalty" of consumers. "We need to focus on recruiting new Libertarians, as opposed to, say, getting our message out. We don't need to get our message out — we need to get new members in!"

The panelists spoke for two hours before an SRO crowd.

Banquets

The '97 convention boasted two separate banquets, opportunities for everyone to unwind with food, drink and friends.

The first banquet, held Saturday evening, was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Michael Cloud. Cloud told those gathered that there is no "silver bullet" for Libertarian victory — that our party's success will not come from recruiting a celebrity candidate or millionaire investor; instead, it will come from "silver buckshot" — the persistent, concentrated and forceful efforts of thousands of Libertarian activists. Afterward, Cloud conducted a fundraiser that added over \$1500 to the LPC's warchest.

The second banquet took place Sunday evening and was highlighted by a speech from Guest of Honor Harry Browne, the 1996 Libertarian presidential candidate and best selling author of *Why Government Doesn't Work*. Browne thanked the crowd for everything that they had done for him during his campaign, and urged everyone to focus their energies on building party membership. (See sidebar on page 8.)

Samuel Adams Society Luncheon

For the sixteenth year, the LPC's annual convention climaxed with a luncheon sponsored by the Samuel Adams Society, a group dedicated to recognizing and inspiring Libertarian candidates in California. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Jack Dean, the society's founder and director.

As is customary in post-election years, Dean gave certificates of appreciation to several Libertarian candidates. Afterward, he presented the society's coveted Sons of Liberty Award to Tom Tryon, Supervisor of Calaveras County. A beaming Tryon accepted the engraved silver cup, which is given to candidates deemed "most effective in communicating libertarian principles."

The cornerstone of the event was a talk by Jacob Hornberger, founder and president of The Future of Freedom



Convention Organizer and Northern Vice Chair Cullene Lang at Grassroots Seminar.

Foundation. Delivering a talk entitled "Libertarianism: the hope for America," Hornberger demonstrated why he is rapidly becoming known as one of our movement's most articulate and inspiring advocates. (Highlights from his speech will be published in our next issue.)

First Meeting of New Excom

The last official event of the 1997 LPC Convention was a short meeting held by the party's newly elected Executive Committee.

During the meeting, the Excom authorized Chair Mark Hinkle to make arrangements with Michael Cloud to institute a new fundraising program for the party. It also elected Ted Brown, Joe Dehn, Eric Fine and Jon Petersen to serve with Hinkle as the Operations Committee. The Opcom was authorized to implement the Unified Membership Plan and the Executive Committee approved an agreement enabling the LPC to withdraw from the UMP should it later decide to do so. The committee adjourned after scheduling its next meeting for March 22 in Santa Clara County.

* * *

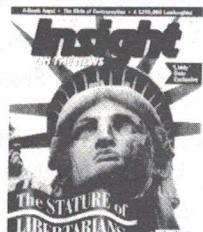
With that, the LPC's 1997 Convention drew to a close. Delegates and members left the Beverly Garland Hotel and scattered like "silver buckshot" to every corner of the state, returning to their homes and families — and their activities on behalf of the Libertarian Party of California. ■

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Unified Membership Plan

(continued from page 3)

issue of *LPC Monthly*. Additional information is available on the World Wide Web at "http://www.lp.org/ca/ump/".

Information is also available for regional officers who deal with membership matters; if you're in that category and have not already been contacted regarding this program, please send a note to the Interim Database Coordinator, Joe Dehn, at <jwd3@dehnbased.fidonet.org>. (If you don't have e-mail, you can telephone Dehn at 415-858-1842.) ■

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